



Integrating Lamont

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Integrating Lamont

[See Image 19: Integrating Lamont: Men]

January 1949.

Lamont Library opens to Harvard's all-male undergraduates.

Experience here and elsewhere has shown that a library for men only or for women only can be administered with almost no supervision in the reading rooms, but that a coeducational library requires supervision if reasonable quiet is to be preserved. In order to achieve most efficiently its primary aims, Lamont has been designed in such a way that the staff would have to be doubled if adequate reading room supervision were to be provided on a coeducational basis.

--Keyes D. Metcalf, *Harvard Library Bulletin* 3 (Winter 1949)

“We’re the Girls” (Sung to the tune of: “I’m in Love with a Wonderful Guy); words by Holly Butler 1953 and Barbara Williams 1955

We’re the girls who have classes at Harvard,

We’re the students whom none can excel,

Very well read and though not quite co-ed,

We think joint education is swell.

Tech men take us dancing in Boston,

Dartmouth takes us to ski in Vermont.

Yalies will wine us and Princeton men dine us

So who wants to get into Lamont?

As you can guess, we lay plenty of stress,

On Epicure and Freud.

We find their theories a logical series

And not only learn but enjoy.

Helen of Troy can be seen in our faces,

Venus de Milo gave all of us charms.

But you can see, we're much better than she.

We have not only faces but arms.

When we are gone they'll be others to follow,

Radcliffe girls are blue stockings no more,

Our stockings are sheerer, our minds are much clearer.

We're better, we're better, much better, lots better

Better than ever before!

[See image 20: Integrating Lamont: Women]

October 1964.

**Radcliffe students gain use of a sixth-floor classroom but are required to get to it via
a side entrance and staircase.**

As every good Frenchman knows, it was when the *women and children* of
Paris rushed into the streets that the Bastille fell. . . .

So be it. The women and children of Harvard University have at last
stormed the final symbol, have brought about, as if accidentally, the first
blushing dawn of the new regime. Lamont has been penetrated.

--"Battle of the Books, *Harvard Crimson*, Oct. 1964.

"The Radcliffe Revolution" (Sung to the tune of "Battle Hymn of the Republic"); words
by Residents of Cabot House

We'll put Dean Kerby-Miller down in Massachusetts Hall.

CHORUS:

Harvard then will be the Annex (3 times)

When the Radcliffe Revolution comes.

We'll put the *Crimson* out weekly and the *NEWS* out every day.

We'll serve Scotch and sodas at President's teas.

We'll all queue up for open house instead of closed reserve.

We'll all have Crimson garters to keep blue stockings up,

We'll have a ladies restroom in the basement of Lamont.

January 1966.

Harvard Undergraduate Council votes against permitting women broader access to Lamont.

3. Girls in Lamont would inevitably be a distraction. Though the atmosphere of Lamont is subject to much derision, over 1,200 Harvard students find it the best place to work. Study dates and other social phenomena would certainly endanger the present solitude.

--Letter from Harvard Undergraduate
Council to Merle Fainsod, director of the University Library, Jan. 3, 1966

September 1966.

Radcliffe women are allowed to use all facilities of Lamont because of a delay in the completion of Hilles Library.

They've been letting Cliffies into Lamont for close to two weeks now and lo! The hallowed walls have not fallen. In fact, the short tenure of emergency coeducation in Lamont has accomplished what years of

verbiage could not--proven, once and for all, that people can study for
Harvard degrees in a heterosexual library.

Harvard Crimson, Oct. 6, 1966

[See Image 21: Integrating Lamont: Together at Last]

October 1966.

**On the opening of Hilles Library at Radcliffe, female students are again denied
access to reserve materials and study areas in Lamont.**

They're gonna throw us out of Lamont today.

After two weeks of coeducational study, Harvard has refused to integrate
permanently its last bastion of monasticism.

--Nancy H. Davis, "Lamont Banishes All Cliffies to Hilles," *Harvard
Crimson*, Oct. 10, 1966.

December 1966.

**Library Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Science recommends that Lamont be
open to all Harvard and Radcliffe undergraduates on an experimental basis.**

A Harvard man commented, "I'd rather take a break looking at a girl's legs
than smelling some guy's sweaty socks." Girls have heard about the smell

at Lamont, but one Cliffie predicted confidently that “the stronger Cliffies can take it.”

--*Harvard Crimson*, Dec. 16, 1966

February 1967.

Radcliffe students are allowed permanent access to all areas of Lamont.

Adapted from *Women in Lamont*, a brochure prepared for the May 1999 celebration of Lamont Library’s fiftieth anniversary.